

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**July 15 2004**

For immediate release

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- 2. Barge sunk in Lake Delhi releases diesel fuel**
- 3. Manure spill causes fish kill near Dyersville**
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## **EPC TO ADDRESS AIR EMISSIONS NEAR ANIMAL OPERATIONS**

DES MOINES – The Environmental Protection Commission will be asked to approve final rules for a study of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and odor levels around animal feeding operations at the July 19 meeting.

The proposed rules will include DNR recommendations to establish a health effects value and a health effects standard for hydrogen sulfide. These values will be used to compare against monitoring data taken from an ongoing field study near animal feeding operations. If concentrations exceed 30 parts per billion averaged over one hour more than seven times per year, the DNR could proceed with programs that address emissions from animal feeding operations.

The EPC will meet on Monday, at 10 a.m., at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Tom Newton from the Department of Public Health will be speaking at 10:15 a.m. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks

- Final Rule – Chapter 32 “Animal Feeding Operations Field Study”
- Final Rule – Amend Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 567—Chapter 118, “Discarded Appliance Demanufacturing”
- Final Rule – Adopt new IAC 567—Chapter 122 “Cathode Ray Tube Device Recycling”
- Final Rule – Rescind IAC 567—Chapters 215 “Waste Tire Management County Grant Program,” 216 “Regents Tire-Derived Fuel Program,” and 217 “Waste Tire End-User Incentive Program”
- State of Iowa Public Drinking Water Program
- 2003 Annual Compliance Report
- Proposed Contested Case Decision – Natural Pork Production II, LLP
- Proposed Contested Case Decision – Richard Juhl
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for next month's meeting

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR website under Commissions and Boards at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, chair, Manchester; Kathryn Murphy, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant; Jerry Peckum, Jefferson; Heidi Vittetoe, Washington; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; and Donna Buell, Spirit Lake. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

**For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135.**

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## **BARGE SUNK IN LAKE DELHI RELEASES DIESEL FUEL**

DELHI — Emergency crews are attempting to recover diesel fuel from a sunken dredging barge in an effort to bring the barge to the surface. The barge sank in Lake Delhi, located in Delaware County, sometime between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night.

An unknown amount of fuel has escaped, leaving a thin sheen on the lake’s surface for several hundred yards around the area where the barge sank. Emergency response crews

placed absorbent booms to recover as much of the fuel as possible. The tank was secured to prevent further fuel loss. No one was injured in the incident.

Officials from the J. F. Brennan Company of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, owner of the barge, estimate that the barge may have held up to 500 gallons of fuel.

The DNR told swimmers at a nearby beach that swimming was not advised but had not posted a warning sign on Thursday afternoon. Multiple samples will be collected between the barge and the dam to determine the impact of the spill.

“The bright sunny day likely vaporized much of the fuel,” said Sue Miller, an environmental specialist at the Manchester DNR field office. “Some natural decay will break the fuel down, but swimmers should be aware of the situation.”

The DNR observed no fuel odor or sheen by the dam or below the dam, but an absorbent boom was placed in front of the dam as a precaution.

The cause of the incident has not been determined, but is under investigation. The DNR will continue to monitor recovery efforts and take appropriate legal action.

**For more information, contact Sue Miller at 563-927-2640.**

# # #

## **MANURE SPILL CAUSES FISH KILL NEAR DYERSVILLE**

DYERSVILLE — A manure release from a dairy farm Thursday morning caused a complete fish kill along an unnamed tributary of the North Fork of the Maquoketa River near Dyersville.

A plywood stop in a manure control structure blew out, releasing an estimated several thousand gallons of manure into the small stream. The owner of the farm worked quickly to address the spill, constructing an earthen dam, keeping most of the manure contained in the stream and out of the North Fork of the Maquoketa River. The collected manure is being applied to cornfields.

The manure caused a complete fish kill in the tributary, killing a few hundred creek chubs, stonerollers and minnows. DNR fisheries staff will be conducting a fish count on Thursday.

This is the third fish kill this week in the North Fork of the Maquoketa River watershed.

The DNR will continue to investigate the incident and will later determine if any enforcement actions will be taken.

**For more information, contact Mike Wade at (563) 927-2640.**

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## **SOURCE IDENTIFIED IN WALKER FISH KILL**

MANCHESTER — F.J. Krob and Company, of Walker, was identified as the source of the ammonia that killed nearly 8,000 fish in the east branch of Blue Creek last Friday. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources identified the company during the investigation.

Susan Miller, with the DNR's Manchester office, said an employee with the company mistakenly released an estimated 4,000 gallons of ammonia contaminated water from a tank that was the source of the fish kill.

The investigation uncovered an opened valve that allowed ammonia into the water tank.

Miller said the DNR would seek penalties beyond fish restitution. F.J. Krob and Company was responsible for a fish kill in the same stream in June 2003.

**For more information, contact Susan Miller at (563) 927-2640.**

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## **DNR ADVISES FARMERS TO INSPECT DRY MANURE STACKING AREAS TO PREVENT FISH KILLS**

DES MOINES — The DNR is advising dairy farmers to inspect “dry” manure stacking areas on their property, as rainfall can cause the manure to flow into streams and lakes.

Farmers must store manure in an area where runoff from the site can not enter a stream, waterway or tile line. Rain water that runs through manure stacking areas picks up high levels of ammonia, which is toxic to fish and other aquatic life.

“With all the rain we’ve had this spring and summer, it’s important to keep manure away from streams and lakes,” said Mike Wade, an environmental specialist in the Manchester DNR field office. “The manure can flow over long distances and still cause fish kills.”

Producers should check dry manure stacking areas to make sure the area is not wet or that any manure is leaking from the area. Manure stacked on the ground must have a minimum separation distance of 200 feet from any waterway, tile line or stream.

Runoff from a dry manure site is believed to have caused a recent fish kill in Delaware County that killed minnows, chubs, suckers and darters. A fish kill a few years ago was caused by manure that flowed through a cornfield for over 1,000 feet before entering a stream. Unless farmers take action in protecting manure sites, more fish kills could occur

with additional rainfall, Wade said.

**For more information, contact Mike Wade at (563) 927-2640.**

# # #

## **BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SET FOR AUGUST**

*Free seminar will help communities and developers overcome brownfield obstacles*

CEDAR RAPIDS — A free seminar on brownfield redevelopment issues will be offered August 3 in Cedar Rapids. The seminar is directed toward community governments, developers and others interested in turning brownfield sites from obstacles into opportunities.

The reuse and redevelopment of abandoned, idled or underutilized properties that have environmental concerns, known as brownfields, is both a challenge and an opportunity. Brownfield redevelopment can breathe fresh life into a depressed area. However, along with these opportunities, there are many complex issues and uncertainties regarding Brownfield site liabilities, legal and environmental risks.

At this seminar, a panel of speakers will examine how brownfield properties can be transformed from a liability and expense for one business into a prime development opportunity for another. A field of experts will be available to help guide attendees in finding problem-solving assistance and financial resources to make the best of brownfield properties.

The seminar is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and supported by the DNR.

The seminar will be held from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Collins Plaza Hotel in Cedar Rapids with a reception to follow. While the seminar is free to attend, pre-registration is requested before July 28. To register, call (800) 842-1358, ext. 54114. For more information on the seminar, a brochure is available on the DNR's Web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

**For more information, contact Mel Pins at (515) 577-2341.**

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## **MIDWEST RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY**

DES MOINES – The Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission will hold a special meeting by telephone conference call from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20.

The meeting will be held in Conference Room 5E of the Wallace State Office Building, located at 502 E. 9th Street in Des Moines. The public is welcome to attend.

Iowa DNR Deputy Director Liz Christiansen is a commissioner for the organization. Other states represented include Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The meeting agenda includes action on a budget request for contribution to a National Academy of Sciences study on low-level activity and review of the June 15 meeting minutes.

**For more information, contact Liz Christiansen at (515) 281-3388 or by e-mail at [Liz.Christiansen@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Liz.Christiansen@dnr.state.ia.us).**